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the registration work in each constituency "in charge of a specially-appointed skilled official, devoting his whole time to the work;" he would have the distribution of seats in the House of Commons more frequently and more scientifically adjusted; he would limit candidature to a fixed period, and would include in the return of election expenses all expenses incurred in "nursing" a constituency; he would pay members of the House of Commons and would "banish the old and pernicious tradition of lavish election expenditure;" he would "restrict the bill-posting, both in character and amount" and would prohibit the employment of "sandwichmen;" he would have the expenses of newspapers, owned or controlled by candidates, fall into the statutory aggregate and be included in the return of expenses; he would have all elections held on the same day, would keep the polls open for a longer time, would prohibit the "besetting" of the voter, and would have all public-houses closed on election day; he would also "ennoble the act of voting" and would render the aspect of the polling booth "more inspiring by portraits of the great leaders of the race and by pictures of the great constitutional episodes."

While some of the suggestions appear to be too theoretical and complicated to be workable, many of them seem both practicable and advisable. Only the natural conservatism of the English people will stand in the way of their adoption.

The author has expended a prodigious amount of labor upon his book and students of the British political system will refer to it with profit.

T. F. MORAN.

The Condition of England. By C. F. G. MASTERMAN. (London: Methuen and Company, 1909. Pp. xi, 309.)

In ten well written and incisive chapters the author has attempted an analysis of present conditions in England from the social, economic, scientific, literary, and religious standpoints. Although not pessimistic, the study represents affairs in England as being in a serious and not altogether hopeful condition. The diagnosis, in the main, coincides with that reached by Price Collier in his "England and the English."

Mr. Masterman's delineation of economic conditions may be best given in his own words. "Such appear some, at least," he says, "of the characteristics of the various classes of society to-day in England. In general material condition there is little to excite foreboding. A

proportion of the population is raised well above the privations of poverty larger than ever before in history. Extravagance and a longing for pleasure and excitement are common to all classes. The aggregation of plenty is such as the Old World has never before seen. The vision, as a whole, is of a laborious energetic race, deserting the countryside for the cities, and there heaping up wealth, which is shared, in some degree, by all but the poorest. If anything is wrong in material conditions it is in the apparatus, not of accumulation, but of distribution. An altogether inadequate proportion of this accumulation is the absolute possession of a tiny class which sits secure upon the summit." (Page 209.)

The author is not sure that the progress due to science and invention is an unmixed blessing. "It is making life noisier: is it making life—to the general—a richer, a better thing: existence more worth the living?" (Page 215.)

In his chapter on "Religion and Progress," Mr. Masterman expresses himself succinctly as follows: "Here is the kernel of the whole matter. Ethical advance is accompanied (as it seems) by spiritual decline." (Page 274.)

In his "Postscript" the author candidly admits that he is unable to interpret with any degree of confidence the general phenomena presented by English conditions. "So at the end," he says, "we are compelled to confess an essential ignorance. . . . We are uncertain whether civilization is about to blossom into flower, or wither in tangle of dead leaves and faded gold." (Page 304.) Nevertheless, the book is brilliantly written, exceedingly suggestive and stimulating, and interesting from the speculative standpoint. The author has read widely and quotes aptly and was well prepared for his task by his varied experience as journalist, author, and philanthropic worker.

T. F. MORAN.

The Hague Peace Conferences and Other International Conferences Concerning the Laws and Usages of War: Texts of Conventions, with Commentaries. By A. PEARCE HIGGINS. (Cambridge: University Press, 1909. Pp. xiv, 632.)

The character of this work may perhaps best be seen by a comparison with the like work of Mr. James B. Scott. Mr. Scott's evident purpose was to do for the two Peace Conferences and especially the second Conference what Frederick W. Holls had done for the first. Both had a special interest in arbitration and both had been members